

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the set of claims within the Application, please amend claims 1-20 as hereinafter indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of calibrating at least one occupant classification sensor onboard a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

sensing physical manipulations of at least one onboard calibration device and determining whether said physical manipulations are in a predetermined order so as to initiate an onboard procedure for calibrating said at least one occupant classification sensor;

upon initiation of said onboard procedure, sensing physical manipulations of said at least one onboard calibration device and accordingly generating calibration signals;

receiving calibration signals originating from at least one on-board vehicle calibration device;

performing at least one calibration task, comprising including initializing and generating [[a]] at least one baseline for [[the]] at least one said occupant classification sensor, in response to said calibration signals; and

affirmatively indicating performance confirmation of [[said]] at least one said calibration task.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising actuating at least a portion of said at least one on-board vehicle calibration device wherein said physical manipulations are sensed by sensors, and said calibration signals are generated by said sensors.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim [[2]] 1, wherein [[said]] at least one said calibration task is at least partially performed in response to said actuation of said portion by at least one controller.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one said onboard calibration device is an ignition switch, and further comprising generating at least some of said calibration signals are generated in response to actuation of [[an]] said ignition switch.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one said onboard calibration device is a pressure-sensitive seat system, and further comprising generating at least some of said calibration signals are generated in response to the application of pressure on [[a]] said seat system for a predetermined time period.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one said onboard calibration device is a seat belt, and further comprising generating at least some of said calibration signals are generated in response to buckling and unbuckling [[a]] said seat belt a predetermined amount number of times.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one said onboard calibration device is a pressure-sensitive seat system, and further comprising generating at least some of said calibration signals are generated in response to releasing the release of pressure on [[a]] said seat system.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said at least one baseline comprises is at least partially accomplished by zeroing said at least one occupant classification sensor.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of affirmatively indicating performance confirmation of [[said]] at least one said calibration task comprises is at least partially accomplished by affirmatively indicating confirmation of an initialization mode that said onboard procedure for calibrating said at least one occupant classification sensor has been initiated.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of affirmatively indicating performance confirmation of [[said]] at least one said calibration task comprises is at least partially accomplished by affirmatively flashing [[a]] an indicator lamp a predetermined amount number of times.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

generating occupant classification signals in response to said at least one baseline;

generating a calibrated output in response to said calibration signals and said occupant classification signals; and

verifying said calibrated output.

12. (Currently Amended) A system method as in claim 1, wherein [[said]] at least one said calibration task is performed in response to at least some of said calibration signals when received in a predetermined sequence.

13. (Currently Amended) An occupant classification system for a vehicle, said occupant classification system comprising:

at least one occupant classification sensor having [[a]] at least one associated baseline and generating operable to generate occupant classification signals;

at least one manipulable onboard calibration device;

at least one calibration device sensor operable to generate calibration signals according to physical manipulations of said at least one onboard calibration device;

a controller coupled to each said occupant classification sensor and each said calibration device sensor and receiving operable to receive said calibration signals, originating from at least one on-board vehicle calibration device and configured to adjust each said baseline, and generate [[a]] at least one calibrated output in response to said occupant classification signals and said calibration signals; and

[[an]] at least one indicator coupled to said controller and indicating performance confirmation operable to affirmatively indicate performance of at least one calibration system task associated with calibrating said at least one occupant classification sensor;

wherein said controller is operable to determine whether said physical manipulations are in a predetermined order so as to initiate at least one said system task for calibrating at least one said occupant classification sensor.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An occupant classification system as in claim 13, wherein [[said]] at least one said occupant classification sensor is selected from at least one the

group consisting of a pressure sensor, a strain gage, a piezo electric sensor, an infrared sensor, a piezo resistive sensor, and an ultrasonic sensor.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An occupant classification system as in claim 13, wherein at least one said baseline is selected from the group consisting of an occupant weight baseline, an occupant position baseline, an occupant present baseline, and an occupant size baseline.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An occupant classification system as in claim 13, wherein at least one said on-board onboard calibration device is selected from at least one the group consisting of a brake pedal, a gas pedal, a key cylinder, an ignition switch, a key receiver, a timer, a seat, a seat belt buckle, a seat belt retractor, a seat belt receiver, a seat belt buckle receiver, a seat belt anchor, a button, a switch, and a dial.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An occupant classification system as in claim 13, wherein at least one said indicator is selected from at least one the group consisting of an LCD display, a monitor, an LED, a display, a dashboard vehicle system status indicator, an audio system, a video system, a heads-up display, and a lamp.

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An occupant classification system as in claim 13, wherein said controller adjusts is operable to adjust at least one said baseline when said calibrations calibration signals are received in a predetermined sequence.

19. (Currently Amended) A countermeasure system for a vehicle, said countermeasure system comprising:

at least one collision detection sensor configured operable to detect an object and accordingly generate [[an]] object detection signal signals;

at least one occupant classification sensor having [[a]] at least one associated baseline and generating operable to generate occupant classification signals;

at least one manipulable onboard calibration device;

at least one calibration device sensor operable to generate calibration signals according to physical manipulations of said at least one onboard calibration device;

a controller coupled to each said collision detection sensor, each said occupant classification sensor, and each said calibration device sensor and receiving operable to receive said calibration signals, originating from at least one on-board vehicle calibration device and configured to adjust each said baseline, and generate [[a]] at least one calibrated output in response to said occupant classification signals and said calibration signals;

[[an]] at least one indicator coupled to said controller and configured operable to affirmatively indicate performance confirmation of at least one calibration system task associated with calibrating said at least one occupant classification sensor; and

at least one countermeasure coupled to said controller;

wherein said controller is operable to determine whether said physical manipulations are in a predetermined order so as to initiate at least one said system task for calibrating at least one said occupant classification sensor, and said controller performing a is operable to perform at least one said countermeasure in response to said object detection signal signals and at least one said calibrated output.

20. (Currently Amended) A countermeasure system as in claim 19, wherein performing a countermeasure comprises activating at least one said countermeasure device is a device selected from the group consisting of a pretensioner, an air bag, a knee bolster device, a head restraint device, and a load-limiting load-limiting device.